

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CASABL 00054 01 OF 02 131037Z
ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05
INT-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /042 W
-----131047Z 028015 /21

R 121640Z JAN 77
FM AMCONSUL CASABLANCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4554
INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMCONSUL TANGIER
USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 CASABLANCA 0054

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS, MO
SUBJ: FISHERIES OF MOROCCO, 1975

REF: A-1

1. REGIONAL FISHERIES ATTACHE HAS COMPLETED A 140-PAGE
AIRGRAM ON MOROCCAN FISHERIES 1975. REPAIR BEING POUCHED
FOLLOWING EMBASSY APPROVAL.

2. SUMMARY AS FOLLOWS: IN 1975, MOROCCO'S 21,000 FISHERMEN
LANDED 235,756 METRIC TONS (T) OF FISHERY PRODUCTS, INCLUDING
205,783 T OF "INDUSTRIAL" FISH (USED FOR CANNING OR REDUCTION
INTO FISHMEAL), 29,440 T OF FRESH FISH FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION,
481 T OF CRUSTACEANS, AND 52 T OF MOLLUSKS. FISHERMEN AT THE
ATLANTIC OCEAN PORTS OF AGADIR, ESSAOUIRA, AND SAFI LANDED 79
PER CENT OF TOTAL CATCH, FOLLOWED BY FISHERMEN IN CASABLANCA
(16 PER CENT) AND MEDITERRANEAN PORT OF AL HOCEIMA (5 PER CENT).
THE REST (LESS THAN 1 PER CENT) WAS LANDED IN 13 SMALLER
FISHING PORTS.

SARDINES PLAYED A LEADING ROLE IN MORROCO'S FISHERIES IN 1975--
AS THEY HAVE FOR YEARS--BY ACCOUNTING FOR 72 PER CENT OF ALL
LANDINGS (168,797 T). CATCH, HOWEVER, IN 1973. THIS DECREASE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CASABL 00054 01 OF 02 131037Z

WAS ANTICIPATED BECAUSE MOROCCO'S SARDINE FISHERIES ARE INFLUENCED
BY A COMBINATION OF WIND AND OCEANIC MOVEMENT (UPSELLING) WHICH
RESULTS ON GOOD OR BAD CATCHES. THESE NATURAL FORCES PEAKED IN
1973, PRODUCING A SUPER ABUNDANCE OF PLANKTON, AN ESSENTIAL FOOD
FOR SARDINES AND THEIR LARVAE. MOROCCAN MARINE SCIENTISTS EXPECT
SARDINE CATCH TO CONTINUE TO DECREASE THROUGH 1977 AND THEN TO
INCREASE--AS METEOROLOGICAL AND OCEANOGRAPHIC FORCES BEGIN TO

GATHER STRENGTH--UNTIL 1980 OR 1981 WHEN ANOTHER RECORD UPWELLING AND SARDINE HARVEST IS PROJECTED.

THE MAJOR DEVELOPMENT IN 1976 AFFECTING MOROCCO'S FISHERIES WAS OPENING OF THE WATERS OFF EX-SPANISH SAHARA TO MOROCCAN FISHERMEN. THESE NEW FISHING GROUNDS ARE BELIEVED TO CONTAIN 1.7 MILLION TONS OF SARDINES--THREE TIMES QUANTITY FOUND IN MOROCCO'S TRADITIONAL FISHING GROUNDS. THIS NEW RESSOURCE COULD MAKE MOROCCO ONE OF THE BIGGEST SARDINE PRODUCERS IN THE WORLD. STUDIES HAVE ALSO SHOWN ENORMOUS QUANTITIES OF TRUMPETFISH--A "TRASH" FISH WHICH IS PRESENTLY BEING THROWN AWAY. THE FISHMEAL INDUSTRY IS TRYING TO MANUFACTURE FISHMEAL OUT OF TRUMPETFISH. IF SUCCESSFUL, THIS UNUTILIZED SPECIES COULD HELP MAKE MOROCCO AN IMPORTANT FISHMEAL PRODUCERS AND OPEN UP A NEW FISHERY.

MACKEREL AND ANCHOVIES LANDINGS REMAIN SMALL, THESE FISH ARE CANNED FOR EXPORT. TUNA, ONCE CAUGHT IN REASONABLE QUANTITIES OFFSHORE ARE NO LONGER BEING LANDED, BUT TWO MOROCCAN COMPANIES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED TO FISH FOR TUNA IN THE GULF OF GUINEA. MOROCCO'S SMALL SHRIMP AND LOBSTER FISHERIES COULD BOTH BE EXPENDED AND THE PRODUCT EXPORTED.

ANTIQUATED FISHING VESSELS, POOR HANDLING, LACK OF REFRIGERATION, AND OUTDATED PROCESSING PLANTS RESULTS IN HEAVY DAMAGE TO FISH WHICH COULD OTHERWISE BE CANNED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION. INSTEAD, ABOUT 50 PER CENT OF TOTAL CATCH IS USED TO PRODUCE FISHMEAL. ONLY 30 PER CENT IS USED FOR CANNING, 15 PER CENT IS SOLD LOCALLY AS FRESH FISH, AND REST IS FROZEN BY INFANT FREEZING INDUSTRY.

CANNED SARDINES, FISHMEAL, AND FISH OIL WERE LEADING COMMODITIES EXPORTED IN 1975. MOROCCO'S CANNED SARDINES ENJOY WORLD-WIDE SALES, BUT DIVERSIFICATION OF PRODUCTS IS NEEDED.

THE OFFICE NATIONAL DES PECHEs (ONP), A SEMI-GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 CASABL 00054 01 OF 02 131037Z

ESTABLISHED IN 1969, IS CHARGED WITH DEVELOPING AND MODERNIZING MOROCCO'S FISHERIES. THE ONP HAS HELPED ARTIZANAL FISHERMEN BUY NEW FISHING GEAR AND HAS ESTABLISHED FISHERIES COOPERATIVES. THE ONP WORKED TO ENACT A MARITIME INVESTMENT CODE DESIGNED TO STIMULATE INVERSTMENTS IN NEW FISHING VESSELS.

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CASABL 00054 02 OF 02 131040Z
ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05

INT-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /042 W

-----131047Z 028045 /21

R 121640Z JAN 77

FM AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4555

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMCONSUL TANGIER

USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS FINAL SECTION 2 OF 2 CASABLANCA 0054

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, MO

SUBJ: FISHERIES OF MOROCCO, 1975

REF: A-1

THE ONP HAS ESTABLISHED JOINTVENTURE FISHING ARRANGEMENT WITH SEVERAL FOREIGN NATIONS, THUS BRINGING NEW TECHNOLOGY AND METHODS INTO MOROCCO'S FISHERIES. THE ONP ALSO HELPED ESTABLISHED A 70 MILE FISHERIES ZONE AND HAS STIMULATED LOCAL FISH COMSUMPTION BY FORMING A SPECIAL FIRM SELLS FRESH OR CHILLED FISH IN THE INTERIOR OF MOROCCO. FINALLY, THE ONP, THROUGH THE FISHERIES INSTITUTE, ALSO CONDUCTS SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.

MOROCCO IS AN EXCELLENT AREA FOR POTENTIAL U.S. INVESTORS OR EXPORTERS ABLE TO DEVELOP MOROCCO'S MARINE RESOURECES. OPPORTUNITY FOR INVESTORS INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHING JOINT VENTURES WITH MOROCCAN PARTNERS IN THE FIELDS OF CANNING OR FILLETING AND FREEZING FISH ARE EXCELLENT. OPPORTUNITIES ALSO EXIST FOR JOINT VENTURES IN FIELD OF DEEP-WATER SHRIMP AND LOBSTER FISHING, BUT A FAIRLY SUBSTANTIAL PERIOD OF EXPERIMENTAL FISHING WILL REQUIRED IN ORDER TO LOCATE SUITABLE FISHING GROUNDS FOR THOSE TWO SPECIES. EXPORTERS OF COLD-STORAGE OR FREEZING PLANTS, PLANT MACHINERY, FISHING VESSELS, GEAR, ENGINES, NETS, ELECTRONIC GEAR, ETC. ALSO UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CASABL 00054 02 OF 02 131040Z

HAVE TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITIES FOR SALES IN MOROCCO. IN ORDER TO COMPETE EFFECTIVELY, HOWEVER, INTERESTED COMPANIES MUST BE ABLE TO CORRESPOND IN FRENCH AND MUST HAVE SALES LITERATURE WRITTEN IN FRENCH. IN PREPARING A SALES OFFENSIVES THE THE INTERESTED FIRM SHOULD REALIZE THAT DECISIONS CAN, QUITE OFTEN, TAKE SEVERAL MONTHS TO BE REACHED AND THAT OFTEN SEVERAL PERSONAL VISITS CAN GEBERATE MORE SALES THAN THE SIMPLE EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDANCE. IN SUMMARY, MOROCCO'S FISHERIES COULD BE DOUBLED OR TRIPLED IN THE NEXT FEW YARES. SARDINES AND TRUMPETFISH WILL PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN THIS GROWTH. MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS IN THE FISHING FLEET, ESTABLISHMENT OF A COLD CHAIN, AND MODERNIZATION OF PLANT FACILITIES WILL BE REQUIRED IF MOROCCO IS TO REAP ITS POTENTIAL FISHERIES RESOURCES.

MONJO

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FISHERIES, REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CASABL00054
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770013-0139
Format: TEL
From: CASABLANCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770160/aaaacaja.tel
Line Count: 171
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 96ff2edb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3619878
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FISHERIES OF MOROCCO, 1975
TAGS: EFIS, MO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/96ff2edb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009